

OPINION 1990 (Case 3076)***Tanaecia heringi* Niepelt, 1935 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): specific name placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology**

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; NYMPHALIDAE; *Tanaecia heringi*; *Tanaecia coelebs*; southeast Asia.

Ruling

- (1) The name *heringi* Niepelt, 1935, as published in the binomen *Tanaecia heringi*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3076

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Tanaecia coelebs* Corbet, 1941 was received from Dr Takashi Yokochi (*Owariasahi, Aichi, Japan*) on 7 January 1998. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 56: 177–178 (September 1999). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

The application was sent to the Commission for voting on 1 September 2000. The proposal to conserve the specific name of *Tanaecia coelebs* Corbet, 1941 by the suppression of *T. heringi* Niepelt, 1935 received a majority of the votes cast but failed to reach the required two-thirds majority (13 votes in favour and seven against; four Commissioners did not vote).

Shortly before the case was sent for voting a comment in support of the application was received from Dr Bernard d'Abera (*clo The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and was recorded on the voting papers.

A number of Commissioners commented on their voting papers. Bouchet commented: 'The application fails to document the usage of the name *coelebs*. Only five references are cited in support'. Lamas commented: 'I recommend strict adherence to priority in this case. The presumption that Corbet (1941) was unaware of the publication of Niepelt's (1935) name is not tenable; it indicates carelessness on the part of Corbet who, in attempting a revision of *Tanaecia*, should at least have consulted *Zoological Record* where in 1935 Niepelt's publication and name were cited. Further, as both names correspond to what is regarded as 'the rarest Malayan species' (of *Tanaecia*) they have been mentioned infrequently in the literature. I see no disaster in replacing *Tanaecia coelebs* by its senior subjective synonym, as butterfly taxonomists and enthusiasts surely will get used easily and quickly to the name *Tanaecia heringi* Niepelt'. Štys commented: 'Clearly all authors except Yokochi publishing on *Tanaecia* have simply ignored the name of a taxon published in an international journal and relied on the subsequent monograph by Corbet (1941). A line must be drawn between observance of continuity and supporting an inadequate scientific work'.

Under the Bylaws the application was submitted for a revote.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2001 the members of the Commission were invited to revote on the proposals published in BZN 56: 178. The voting paper cited the comments above. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2001 the votes were, as follows:

Affirmative votes — 9: Bock, Evenhuis, Fortey, Mahnert, Mawatari, Ng, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson

Negative votes — 16: Alonso-Zarazaga, Böhme, Bouchet, Brothers, Calder, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Halliday, Kraus, Lamas, Macpherson, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol.

No votes were received from Dupuis, Kerzhner and Song.

Since there was a majority against the conservation of the junior synonym, the specific name of *Tanaecia heringi* Niepelt, 1935 is placed on the Official List as the valid name.

Original reference

The following is the original reference to the name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

heringi, *Tanaecia*, Niepelt, 1935, *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift*, **29**(2): 13.